



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
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June 10, 2005

The Honorable André Bauer
President of the Senate
State House, 1st Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval S. 286, R-199.

S. 286 would direct the Budget and Control Board to transfer ownership of National Guard armories in Inman, Lockhart and Jonesville.

I am vetoing S. 286, R-199 because it allows the state to give away surplus property, depriving state taxpayers of both the benefit of that property and the clarity of the budget process that they are entitled to. This has been a long-standing concern of mine. In 1999, I offered an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would have stopped the Defense Department practice of giving away surplus equipment to local government. I refused to sign similar bills that came to my desk in 2003, and subsequently announced at a meeting of the Budget and Control Board that I would veto future such conveyances.

I sincerely believe that if we are to make good decisions in government, they need to reflect reality. Conveyances like the ones in this bill frustrate attempts to create clear budgets that reflect economic reality. When the state gives away "free stuff" to local government, or vice versa, it makes it more difficult for regular taxpayers to get an accurate picture of the basket of goods each portion of their tax burden – local, state and federal - is actually purchasing. In this particular case, the cost of state government will appear higher than it really is; the cost of local government will appear lower than it really is. The fundamental principles of prudent property management and of transparency in government each require that the state receive fair consideration for the transfer of surplus state property. This bill fails to do that.

The Honorable André Bauer
June 7, 2005
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Therefore, I am returning S. 286, R-199 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Mark Sanford

cc: The Honorable John D. Hawkins